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ESSAY ON MAN:

FOUR EPISTLES.

HENRY ST. JOHN, LORD BOLINGBROKE.

BY ALEXANDER POPE.

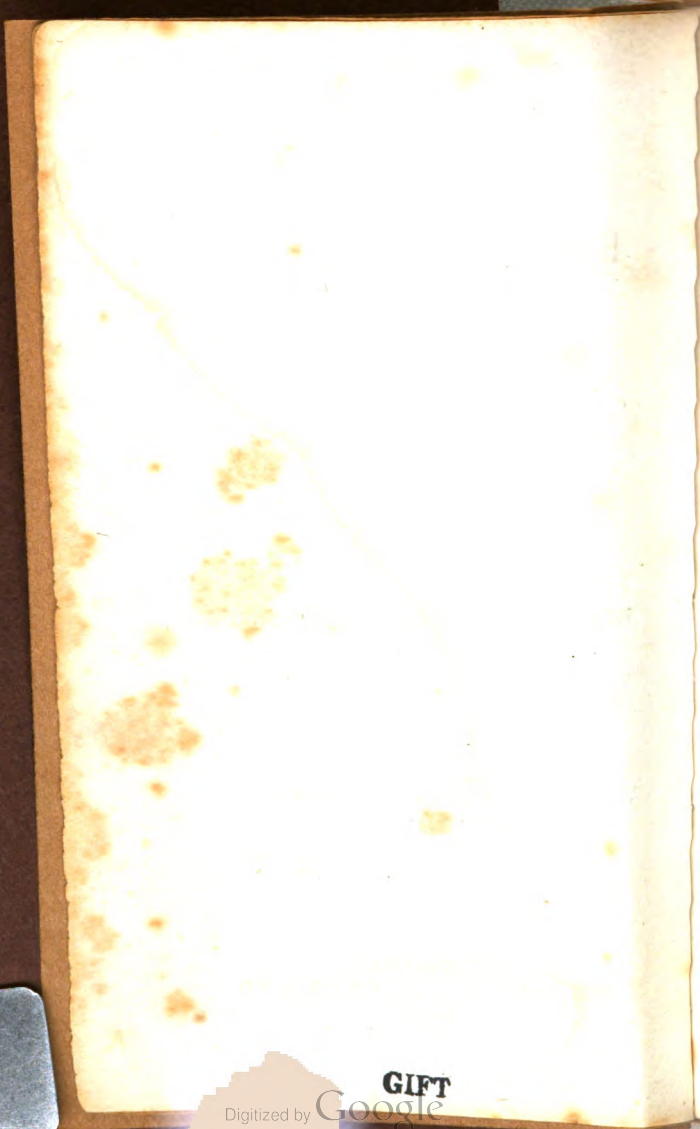
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AWAKE, my ST. JOHN! leave all meaner things
To low ambition, and the pride of kings :
Let us (since life can little more supply
Than just to look about us, and to die) 5
Expatiate free o'er all this scene of man,
A mighty maze! but not without a plan :
A wild, where weeds and flowers promiscuous shoot ;
Or garden, tempting with forbidden fruit,
Together let us beat this ample field, 10
Try what the open, what the covert yield ;
The latent tracts, the giddy heights, explore,
Of all who blindly creep, or sightless soar ;
Eye nature's walks, shoot folly as it flies,
And catch the manners living as they rise.
Laugh where we must, be candid where we can, 15
But vindicate the ways of God to man.

I. Say first, of God above, or man below,
What can we reason, but from what we know ?
Of man, what see we but his station here,
From which to reason, or to which refer ? 20
Thro' worlds unnumber'd though the God be known,
'Tis ours to trace him only in our own.
He, who through vast immensity can pierce,
See worlds on worlds compose one universe, 25
Observe how system into system runs,
What other planets circle other suns,
What varied being peoples every star,
May tell why heaven has made us as we are.
But of this frame, the bearings and the ties,
The strong connexions, nice dependencies, 30
Gradations just, has thy pervading soul
Look'd through ? Or can a part contain the whole ?

Is the great chain that draws all to agree,
And drawn supports, upheld by God, or thee ?
II. Presumptuous man ! the reason wouldst thou find,
Why form'd so weak, so little, and so blind ?
First, if thou canst, the harder reason guess,
Why form'd no weaker, blinder, and no less ?
Ask of thy mother earth, why oaks are made
Taller or stronger than the weeds they shade ? 40
Or ask of yonder argent fields above,
Why Jove's satellites are less than Jove.
Of systems possible, if 'tis confest,



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That wisdom infinite must form the best,
Where all must fall or not coherent be,
And all that rises, rise in due degree;
Then, in the scale of reasoning life 'tis plain,
There must be, somewhere, such a rank as man :
And all the question (wrangle e'er so long)
Is only this, if God has placed him wrong?
Respecting man, whatever wrong we call,
May, must be right, as relative to all.

45

In human works, though labored on with pain,
A thousand movements scarce one purpose gain :
In God's one single can its end produce,
Yet serves to second too some other use.

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So man, who here, seems principal alone,
Perhaps acts second to some sphere unknown,
Touches some wheel or verges to some goal :
'Tis but a part we see, and not a whole.

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When the proud steed shall know why men restrains
His fiery course, or drives him o'er the plains ;
When the dull ox, why now he breaks the clod,
Now wears a garland, an Egyptian god ;
Then shall man's pride and dullness comprehend
His actions', passions', being's use and end ;
Why doing, suffering, check'd, impell'd ; and why
This hour a slave, the next a deity.

60

Then say not man's imperfect, heav'n in fault :
Say rather, man's as perfect as he ought :
His knowledge measur'd to his state and place,
His time a moment, and a point his space.
If to be perfect in a certain sphere,
What matter, soon or late, or here or there ?
The blest to-day is as completely so,
As who began a thousand years ago.

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III. Heav'n from all creatures hides the book of fate,
All but the page prescrib'd, their present state ;
From brutes what men, from men what spirits know :
Or who could suffer being here below ?
The lamb thy riot dooms to bleed to-day,
Had he thy reason, would he skip and play ?
Pleas'd to the last, he crops the flowry food,
Andlicks the hand just rais'd to shed his blood.
Oh blindness to the future ! kindly given,
That each may fill the circle mark'd by heaven,

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Who sees with equal eye, as God of all,
A hero perish, or a sparrow fall,
Atoms or systems into ruin hurl'd,
And now a bubble burst, and now a world. 90
Hope humbly then ; with trembling pinions soar ;
Wait the great teacher, Death ; and God adore :
What future bliss, he gives not thee to know,
But gives that hope to be thy blessing now. 95
Hope springs eternal in the human breast :
Man never is, but always TO BE BLEST :
The soul, uneasy, and confined from home,
Rests and expatiates on a life to come.
Lo, the poor Indian ! whose untutor'd mind
Sees God in clouds, or hears him in the wind ; 100
His soul, proud science never taught to stray
Far as the solar walk, or milky way ;
Yet simple nature to his hope has given
Behind the cloud-topp'd hill, an humbler heaven,
Some safer world, in depth of woods embrac'd, 105
Some happier island in the watery waste,
Where slaves once more their native land behold,
No fiends torment, no Christians thirst for gold.
To be, contents his natural desire,
He asks no angel's wing, no seraph's fire ; 110
But thinks, admitted to that equal sky,
His faithful dog shall bear him company.
IV. Go, wiser thou ! and in thy scale of sense
Weigh thy opinion against providence :
Call imperfection, what thou fanciest such, 115
Say, here he gives too little, there too much :
Destroy all creatures for thy sport or gust,
Yet say, if man's unhappy, God's unjust :
If man alone engross not heaven's high care,
Alone made perfect here, immortal there ; 120
Snatch from his hand the balance and the rod,
Rejudge his justice, be the God of God.
In pride, in reasoning pride, our error lies ;
All quit the sphere, and rush into the skies.
Pride still is aiming at the blest abodes, 125
Men would be angels, angels would be gods.
Aspiring to be gods, if angels fell,
Aspiring to be angels, men rebel :
And who but wishes to invert the laws



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Of order, sins against the eternal cause. 130

V. Ask for what end the heavenly bodies shine?
Earth for whose use? Pride answers, 'tis for mine:
For me kind nature wakes her genial power;
Suckles each herb, and spreads out every flower:
Annual for me, the grape, the rose, renew
The juice nectareous, and the balmy dew;
For me, the mine a thousand treasures brings;
For me, health gushes from a thousand springs;
Seas roll to waft me, suns to light me rise;
My footstool earth, my canopy the skies? 140

But errs not nature from this gracious end,
From burning suns when livid deaths descend,
When earthquakes swallow, or when tempests sweep
Towns to one grave, whole nations to the deep?
'No,' 'tis replied 'the first almighty cause 145
Acts not by partial, but by general laws;

The exceptions few; some change since all began:
And what created perfect?—Why then man?
If the great end be human happiness,
Then nature deviates; and can man do less? 150
As much that end a constant course requires
Of show'rs and sun-shine, as of man's desires;
As much eternal springs and cloudless skies,
As men forever temperate, calm, and wise.
If plagues or earthquakes break not heavens design, 155
Why then a Borgia or a Catiline?

Who knows, but he whose hand the lightning forms,
Who heaves old ocean, and who wings the storms,
Pours fierce ambition in a Cæsar's mind,
Or turns young Ammon loose to scourge mankind? 160
From pride, from pride, our very reas'ning springs;
Account for moral as for natural things:
Why charge we heaven in those, in these acquit?
In both, to reason right, is to submit.

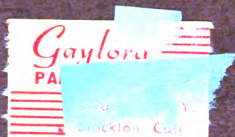
Better for us, perhaps, it might appear, 165
Were there all harmony, all virtue here;
That never air or ocean felt the wind,
That never passion discompos'd the mind.
But all subsists by elemental strife;
And passions are the elements of life. 170
The general order, since the whole began,
Is kept in nature, and is kept in man.

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o that which warbles through the vernal wood !
The spider's touch, how exquisitely fine,
Feels at each thread, and lives along the line :
In the nice bee, what sense so subtly true,
From poisonous herbs extracts the healing dew !
How instinct varies in the grovelling swine,
Compared, half reasoning elephant, with thine !
Twixt that, and reason, what a nice barrier ;
Forever separate, yet forever near !
Remembrance and reflection, how allied ;
What thin partitions sense from thought divide !
And middle natures, how they long to join,
Yet never pass the insuperable line !
Without this just gradation, could they be
Subjected, these to those, or all to thee ?
The powers of all subdued by thee alone,
Is not thy reason all these powers in one ?

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VIII. See, through this air, this ocean, and this earth,
All matter quick, and bursting into birth.
Above, how high progressive life may go !
Around, how wide ! how deep extend below !
Vast chain of being ! which from God began,
Natures ethereal, human, angel, man,
Beast, bird, fish, insect, what no man can see,
No glass can reach ; from infinite to thee ;
From thee to nothing.—On superior powers
Were we to press, inferior might on ours ;
Or in the full creation leave a void,
Where, one step broken, the great scale's destroyed :
From nature's chain, whatever link you strike,
Tenth, or ten thousandth, breaks the chain alike.
And, if each system in gradation roll,
Alike essential to the amazing whole ;
The least confusion but in one, not all
That system only, but the whole, must fall.
Let earth unbalance'd, from her orbit fly,
Planets and suns run lawless through the sky ;
Let ruling angels from their spheres be hurl'd,
Being on being wreck'd, and world on world ;
Heav'n's whole foundations to their centre nod,
And nature tremble to the throne of God.
All this dread order break—For whom ? For thee ?
Vile worm ! O madness ! pride ! impiety !

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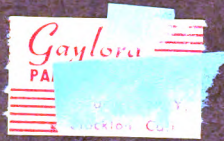
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IX. What if the foot, ordain'd the dust to tread,
 Or hand, to toil, aspir'd to be the head?
 What if the head, the eye, or ear, repin'd
 To serve mere engines to the ruling mind?
 Just as absurd, for any part to claim
 To be another in this general frame:
 Just as absurd, to mourn the task or pains,
 The great directing MIND of ALL ordains.

All are but parts of one stupendous whole,
 Whose body nature is, and God the soul;
 That, chang'd through all, and yet in all the same,
 Great in the earth, as in the ethereal frame;
 Warms in the sun, refreshes in the breeze,
 Glows in the stars, and blossoms in the trees;
 Lives through all life, extends through all extent,
 Spreads undivided, operates unspent,
 Breathes in our soul, informs our mortal part,
 As full, as perfect, in a hair as heart;
 As full, as perfect, in vile man that mourns,
 As the rapt seraph that adores and burns;
 To him, no high, no low, no great, no small;
 He fills, he bounds, connects and equals all.

X. Cease then, nor ORDER Imperfection name:
 Our proper bliss depends on what we blame.
 Know thy own point: This kind, this due degree
 Of blindness, weakness, Heaven bestows on thee.
 Submit.—In this, or any other sphere,
 Secure to be as blest as thou canst bear;
 Safe in the hand of one disposing power,
 Or in the natal, or the mortal hour.
 All nature is but art, unknown to thee;
 All chance, direction which thou canst not see;
 All discord, harmony not understood;
 All partial evil, universal good.
 And, spite of pride, in erring reason's spite,
 One truth is clear, "Whatever is, is RIGHT."



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EPISTLE II.

*Of the Nature and State of Man, with respect
to Himself as an Individual.*

The business of man not to pry into God, but to study himself. His middle nature; His powers and frailties, and the limits of his capacity, 43. The two principles of man, self-love, and reason, both necessary; self-love the stronger, and why; their end the same, 83. The passions, and their use, 83—120. The predominant passion, and its force, 122—150. Its tendency in directing men to different purposes, 153, &c. Its providential use, in fixing our principle, and ascertaining our virtue, 167. Virtue and vice joined in our mixed nature; the limits near, yet the things separate, and evident. What is the office of reason, 187, &c. How odious vice in itself, and how we deceive ourselves into it, 209. That, however the ends of providence and general good are answered in our passions, and imperfections, 230, &c. How usefully they are distributed to all orders of men, 233. How useful they are to society, 241, and to individuals, 253. In every state, and in every age of life, 263, &c.

I. Know then thyself, presume not God to scan;
The proper study of mankind is Man.

Placed on this isthmus of a middle state,
A being darkly wise, and richly great:
With too much knowledge for the sceptic side, 5
With too much weakness for the Stoic's pride,
He hangs between; in doubt to act, or rest;
In doubt to deem himself a God, or beast;
In doubt his mind or body to prefer;
Born but to die, and reasoning but to err; 10
Alike in ignorance, his reason such,
Whether he thinks too little or too much;
Chaos of thought and passion, all confused;
Still by himself abused, or disabused;
Created half to rise, and half to fall; 15
Great lord of all things, yet a prey to all;
Sole judge of truth, in endless error hurl'd;
The glory, jest, and riddle of the world!

Go, wondrous creature! mount where science guides,
Go, measure earth, weigh air, and state the tides; 20
Instruct the planets in what orbs to run,
Correct old time, and regulate the sun;
Go, soar with Plato to the empyreal sphere,

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To the first good, first perfect, and first fair ;
Or tread the mazy round his followers trod,
And quitting sense call imitating God ;
As eastern priests in giddy circles run,
And turn their heads to imitate the sun.
Go, teach Eternal Wisdom how to rule !
Then drop into thyself, and be a fool !

Superior beings, when of late they saw
A mortal man unfold all nature's law,
Admired such wisdom in an earthly shape,
And showed a Newton, as we show an ape.

Could he, who rules the rapid comet bind,
Describe or fix one movement of his mind ?
Who saw its fires here rise, and there descend,
Explain his own beginning or his end ?
Alas, what wonder ! man's superior part
Unchecked may rise, and climb from art to art ;
But when his own great work is but begun,
What reason weaves, by passion is undone.
Trace science then, with modesty thy guide ;
First strip off all her equipage of pride :
Deduct what is but vanity or dress,
Or learning's luxury, or idleness :
Or tricks to show the strength of human brain,
Mere curious pleasure, or ingenious pain ?
Expunge the whole, or lop the excrescent parts
Of all our vices have created arts ;
Then see how little the remaining sum,
Which served the past, and must the times to come !

II. Two principles in human nature reign ;
Self-love to urge, and reason to restrain :
Nor this a good, nor that a bad we call,
Each works its end, to move or govern all :
And to their proper operation still,
Ascribe all good, to their improper, ill.

Self-love, the spring of motion, acts the soul ;
Reason's comparing balance rules the whole.
Man, but for that, no action could attend,
And, but for this, were active to no end.
Fix'd like a plant on his peculiar spot,
To draw nutrition, propagate, and rot ;
Or, meteor-like, flame lawless through the void,
Destroying others, by himself destroy'd.

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Most strength the moving principle requires ;

Active its task, it prompts, impels, inspires.

Sedate and quiet the comparing lies,

Form'd but to check, deliberate, and advise.

Self-love, still stronger, as its object's nigh ;

Reason's at distance, and in prospect lie :

That sees immediate good by present sense ;

Reason, the future and the consequence.

Thicker than arguments, temptations throng,

At best, more watchful this, but that more strong.

The action of the stronger to suspend,

Reason still use, to reason still attend.

Attention habit and experience gains ;

Each strengthens reason, and self-love restrains.

Let subtle schoolmen teach these friends to fight,

More studious to divide, than to unite ;

And grace and virtue, sense and reason split,

With all the rash dexterity of wit.

Wits, just like fools, at war about a name,

Have full as oft no meaning, or the same.

Self-love and reason to one end aspire,

Pain their aversion, pleasure their desire ;

But greedy that, its object would devour,

This, taste the honey, and not wound the flow'r.

Pleasure, or wrong or rightly understood,

Our greatest evil, or our greatest good.

III. Modes of self-love the passions we may call :

'Tis real good, or seeming, moves them all :

But since not every good we can divide,

And reason bids us for our own provide :

Passions, tho' selfish, if their means be fair,

List under reason, and deserve her care ;

Those, that imparted, court a nobler aim,

Exalt their kind, and take some virtue's name.

In lazy apathy let Stoics boast

Their virtue fix'd : 'tis fix'd as in a frost ;

Contracted all, retiring to the breast ;

But strength of mind is exercise, not rest :

The rising tempest puts in act the soul ;

Parts it may ravage, but preserve the whole.

On life's vast ocean diversely we sail,

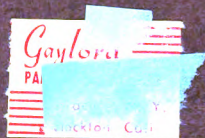
Reason the chart, but passion is the gale ;

Nor God alone in the still calm we find,

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He mounts the storm, and walks upon the wind. 110
 Passions, like elements, though born to fight,
 Yet mix'd and softened, in his work unite :
 These 'tis enough to temper and employ ;
 But what composes man, can man destroy ?
 Suffice that reason keep to nature's road, 115
 Subject, compound them, follow her and God.
 Love, hope, and joy, fair pleasure's smiling train ;
 Hate, fear, and grief, the family of pain,
 These mixed with art, and to due bounds confined,
 Make and maintain, the balance of the mind : 120
 The lights and shades, whose well accorded strife
 Gives all the strength and color of our life.
 Pleasures are ever in our hands and eyes ;
 And when in act they cease, in prospect rise :
 Present to grasp, and future still to find, 125
 The whole employ of body and of mind,
 All spread their charms, but charm not all alike ;
 On different senses, different objects strike ;
 Hence different passions more or less inflame,
 As strong or weak, the organs of the frame ; 130
 And hence one master passion in the breast,
 Like Aaron's serpent, swallows up the rest.
 As man, perhaps, the moment of his breath,
 Receives the lurking principle of death ;
 The young disease that must subdue at length, 135
 Grows with his growth, and strengthens with his strength :
 So, cast and mingled with his very frame,
 The mind's disease, its ruling passion came ;
 Each vital humor, which should feel the whole,
 Soon flows to this, in body and in soul : 140
 Whatever warms the heart, or fills the head,
 As the mind opens, and its functions spread,
 Imagination plies her dangerous art,
 And pours it all upon the peccant part.
 Nature its mother, habit is its nurse ; 145
 Wit, spirit, faculties, but make it worse ;
 Reason itself but gives it edge and power ;
 As heaven's blest beam turns vinegar more sour ;
 We, wretched subjects, though no lawful sway,
 In this weak queen some favorites still obey : 150
 Ah ! if she lend not arms, as well as rules,
 What can she more than tell us we are fools ?



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Teach us to mourn our nature, not to mend,
A sharp accuser, but a helpless friend !

Or from a judge turn pleader, to persuade

The choice we make, or justify it made ;

Proud of an easy conquest all along,

She but removes weak passions for the strong ;

So, when small humors gather to a gout,

The doctor fancies he has driv'n them out.

Yes, nature's road must ever be preferr'd ;

Reason is here no guide, but still a guard ;

'Tis hers to rectify, not overthrow,

And treat this passion more as friend than foe :

A mightier power the strong direction sends,

And several men impels to several ends :

Like varying winds, by other passions tost,

This drives them constant to a certain coast.

Let power or knowledge, gold or glory, please,

Or (oft more strong than all) the love of ease ;

Thro' life 'tis follow'd e'en at life's expense ;

The merchant's toil, the sage's indolence,

The monk's humility, the hero's pride,

All, all alike, find reason on their side.

The eternal art, educing good from ill,

Grafts on this passion our best principle :

'Tis thus the mercury of man is fix'd,

Strong grows the virtue with his nature mix'd :

The dross cements what else were too refin'd,

And in one interest body acts with mind.

As fruits, ungrateful to the planter's care,

On savage stocks inserted learn to bear,

The surest virtues thus from passions shoot,

Wild nature's vigor working at their root.

What crops of wit and honesty appear

From spleen, from obstinacy, hate, or fear !

See anger, zeal and fortitude supply :

'Tis av'rice, prudence ; sloth, philosophy ;

Just, thro' some certain strainers well refin'd,

gentle love, and charms all womankind :

Envy, to which the ignoble mind 's a slave,

Emulation in the learned or brave ;

Not virtue, male or female, can we name,

What will grow on pride, or grow on shame.

Thus nature gives us, (let it check our pride)

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The virtue nearest to our vice allied :
 Reason the bias turns to good from ill,
 And Nero reigns a Titus, if he will.
 The fiery soul abhorr'd in Catiline,
 In Decius charms, in Curtius is divine. 200
 The same ambition can destroy or save,
 And makes a patriot, as it makes a knave.

IV. This light and darkness in our chaos joined,
 What shall divide ? The God within the mind.
 Extremes in nature equal ends produce. 205
 In man they join in some mysterious use ;
 Though each by turns the other's bounds invade,
 As, in some well-wrought picture, light and shade,
 And oft so mix, the difference is too nice,
 Where ends the virtue, or begins the vice. 210

Fools ! Who from hence into the notion fall,
 That vice and virtue there is none at all.
 If white and black blend, soften, and unite
 A thousand ways, is there no black or white ?
 Ask your own heart ; and nothing is so plain ; 215
 'Tis no mistake them, costs the time and pain.

V. Vice is a monster of so frightful mien,
 As, to be hated, needs but to be seen ;
 Yet seen too oft, familiar to her face,
 We first endure, then pity, then embrace. 220
 But where the extreme of vice was ne'er agreed :
 Ask where 's the north ? at York, 'tis on the Tweed ;
 At Scotland, at the Orcades ; and there,
 At Greenland, Zembla, or the Lord knows where. 225
 No creature owns it in the first degree,
 But thinks his neighbor farther gone than he :
 E'en those who dwell beneath its very zone,
 Or never feel the rage, or never own ;
 What happier natures shrink at with affright,
 The hard inhabitant contends is right. 230

Virtuous and vicious every man must be,
 Few in the extreme, but all in the degree ;
 The rogue and fool by fits is fair and wise,
 And e'en the best, by fits what they despise. 235
 'Tis but by parts we follow good or ill,
 For, vice or virtue, SELF directs it still ;
 Each individual seeks a several goal :
 But heaven's great view in one, and that the whole ;



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That counterworks each folly and caprice ;
That disappoints the effect of every vice ;

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That happy frailties to all ranks applied,
Shame to the virgin, to the matron pride ;
Fear to the statesman, rashness to the chief,
To kings presumption, and to crowds belief :

245

That, virtue's ends from vanity can raise,
Which seeks no interest, no reward but praise ;
And build on wants, and on defects of mind,
The joy, the peace, the glory of mankind.

Heaven, forming each on other to depend,
A master, or a servant, or a friend,

250

Bids each on other for assistance call,
Till one man's weakness grows the strength of all
Wants, frailties, passions, closer still ally

The common interest, or endear the tie :

255

To these we owe true friendship, love sincere,
Each home-felt joy that life inherits here ;
Yet from the same we learn, in its decline,
Those joys, those loves, those interests to resign :

Taught, half by reason, half by mere decay,
To welcome death, and calmly pass away.

260

Whate'er the passion, knowledge, fame, or pelf,
Not one will charge his neighbor with himself.

The learn'd is happy, nature to explore ;

The fool is happy that he knows no more ;

265

The rich is happy in the plenty given ;

The poor contents him with the care of heaven.

See the blind beggar dance, the cripple sing,

The sot a hero, lunatic a king ;

The starving chemist in his golden views

270

Supremely blest ; the poet in his muse.

See some strange comfort every state attend,
And pride bestow'd on all, a common friend ;

See some fit passion every age supply ;

Hope travels through, nor quits us when we die.

275

Behold the child, by nature's kindly law,
Lull'd with a rattle, tickled with a straw :

Some livelier plaything gives his youth delight,
A little louder, but as empty quite :

Snuff, garters, gold, amuse his riper stage,
And beads and prayer books are the toys of age :

280

As'd with this bauble still, as that before ;

Till tired he sleeps, and life's poor play is o'er!
 Meanwhile opinion gilds with varying rays,
 Those painted clouds that beautify our days :
 Each want of happiness by hope supplied, 285
 And each vacuity of sense by pride :
 These build as fast as knowledge can destroy :
 In folly's cup still laughs the bubble, joy ;
 One prospect lost, another still we gain ;
 And not a vanity is given in vain ; 290
 E'en mean self-love becomes, by force divine,
 The scale to measure others' wants by thine.
 See ! and confess, one comfort still must rise ;
 'Tis this, though MAN 'S A FOOL, yet GOD IS WISE. 294

EPISTLE III.

*Of the Nature and State of Man, with respect
 to Society.*

The whole universe one system of society, verse 7, &c. Nothing made wholly for itself, nor yet wholly for another, 27. The happiness of animals mutual, 49. Reason or instinct operate alike to the good of each individual, 79.—Reason or instinct operate alike to society, in all animals, 109. How far society is carried by instinct, 115 ; how much farther by reason, 128. Of that which is called the state of nature, 144. Reason instructed by instinct in the invention of arts, 166 ; and in the forms of society, 176.—Origin of political societies, 196. Origin of monarchy, 207. Patriarchal government, 212. Origin of true religion, and government, from the same principle of love, 231. Origin of superstition and tyranny, from the same principle of fear, 237. The influence of self-love, operating to the social and public good, 266. Restoration of true religion and government on their first principle, 285. Mixed government, 288. Various forms of each, and true end of all, 300, &c.

HERE then we rest : " The universal cause
 Acts to one end, but acts by various laws."
 In all the madness of superfluous health,
 The train of pride, the impudence of wealth,
 Let this great truth be present night and day,
 But most be present, if we preach or pray.

I. Look round our world ; behold the chain of love
 Combining all below and all above.



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ESSAY ON MAN.

See plastic nature working to this end,
The single atoms each to other tend,
Attract, attracted to, the next in place
Form'd and impell'd its neighbor to embrace.
See matter next, with various life endued,
Press to one centre still, the general good.
See dying vegetables life sustain,
See life dissolving vegetate again :
All forms that perish, other forms supply,
(By turns we catch the vital breath, and die,) ¹⁹
Like bubbles on the sea of matter borne,
They rise, they break, and to that sea return. ²⁰
Nothing is foreign ; parts relate to whole ;
One all-extending, all-preserving soul
Connects each being, greatest with the least ;
Made beast an aid of man, and man of beast ;
All serv'd, all serving : nothing stands alone ; ²⁵
The chain holds on, and where it ends, unknown.
As God, thou fool, worked solely for thy good,
Thy joy, thy pastime, thy attire, thy food ?
Who for thy table feeds the wanton fawn,
Or him as kindly spread the flowery lawn.
It for thee the lark ascends and sings ? ³⁰
Who tunes his voice, joy elevates his wings.
It for thee the linnet pours his throat ?
Notes of his own, and raptures, swell the note.
The bounding steed you pompously bestride,
Dresses with his lord the pleasure and the pride.
Behold alone the seed that strews the plain ?
The birds of Heaven shall vindicate their grain.
Shall the full harvest of the golden year ?
He pays, and justly, the deserving steer : ⁴⁰
The hog, that ploughs not, nor obeys thy call,
Lies on the labors of this lord of all.
Now, nature's children all divide her care ;
The fur that warms a monarch, warm'd a bear.
The man exclaims, " See all things for my use !"
The man for mine !" replies a pamper'd goose : ⁴⁵
Just as short of reason he must fall,
Who thinks all made for one, not one for all.
Grant that the powerful still the weak control ;
Grant the wit and tyrant of the whole :
Yet that tyrant checks : He only knows, ⁵⁰

And helps another creature's wants and woes.
 Say, will the falcon, stooping from above,
 Suit with her varying plumage, spare the dove ?
 Admires the jay, the insect's gilded wings ? 55
 Or hears the hawk when Philomela sings ?
 Man cares for all : To birds he gives his woods,
 To beasts his pastures, and to fish his floods :
 For some his interest prompts him to provide,
 For more his pleasure, yet for more his pride : 60
 All feed on one vain patron, and enjoy
 The extensive blessing of his luxury ;
 That very life his learned hunger craves,
 He saves from famine, from the savage saves ;
 Nay, feasts the animal he dooms his feast, 65
 And, till he ends the being, makes it blest :
 Which sees no more the stroke, or feels the pain,
 Than favor'd man by touch ethereal slain.
 The creature had its feast of life before ;
 Thou too must perish, when thy feast is o'er ! 70
 To each unthinking being, Heaven a friend,
 Gives not the useless knowledge of its end :
 To man imparts it ; but with such a view,
 As, while he dreads it, makes him hope it too :
 The hour conceal'd, and so remote the fear, 75
 Death still draws nearer, never seeming near.
 Great standing miracle ! that heaven assign'd
 Its only thinking thing, this turn of mind.
 II. Whether with reason, or with instinct blest,
 Know, all enjoy that power which suits them best ; 80
 To bliss alike by that direction tend,
 And find the means proportioned to their end.
 Say, where full instinct is the unerring guide,
 What pope or council can they need beside ?
 Reason, however able, cool at best, 85
 Cares but for service, or but serves when prest,
 Stays till we call, and then not often near ;
 But honest instinct comes a volunteer,
 Sure never to o'ershoot, but just to hit,
 While still too wide or short is human wit ; 90
 Sure by quick nature happiness to gain,
 Which heavier reason labors at in vain.
 This too serves always, reason never long ;
 One must go right, the other may go wrong.

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21

See then the acting and comparing powers,
One in their nature, which are two in ours!
And reason raise o'er instinct as you can,
In this 'tis God directs, in that 'tis man.

95

Who taught the nations of the field and wood
To shun their poison, and to choose their food?
Prescient, the tides or tempest to withstand,
Build on the wave, or arch beneath the sand?
Who made the spider parallels design,
Sure as De Moivre, without rule or line?
Who bid the stork, Columbus like, explore
Heavens not his own, and worlds unknown before?
Who calls the council, states the certain day;
Who forms the phalanx, and who points the way?

100

III. God, in the nature of each being, founds
Its proper bliss, and sets its proper bounds:
But as he framed the whole, the whole to bless,
On mutual wants build mutual happiness;
So, from the first eternal order ran,
And creature linked to creature, man to man,
Whate'er of life all quickening either keeps,
Or breathes through air, or shoots beneath the deeps,
Or pours profuse on earth, and nature feeds
The vital flame, and swells the genial seeds.

105

Not man alone, but all that roam the wood,
Or wing the sky, or roll along the flood,
Each loves itself, but not itself alone,
Each sex desires alike, 'till two are one.
Nor ends the pleasure with the first embrace;
They love themselves a third time in their race.
Thus beast and bird their common charge attend,
The mothers nurse it, and the sires defend:
The young dismissed to wander earth or air,
There stops the instinct, and there ends the care;
The link dissolves, each seeks a fresh embrace,
Another love succeeds, another race.

110

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135

A longer care man's helpless kind demands;
The longer care contracts more lasting bands;
Reflection, reason, still the ties improve,
At once extend the interest and the love:
With choice we fix, with sympathy we burn;
Each virtue in each passion takes its turn;
And still new needs, new helps, new habits rise,

That graft benevolence on charities.
 Still as one brood, and as another rose,
 These natural love maintained, habitual those : 140
 The last, scarce ripened into perfect man,
 Saw helpless him from whom their life began :
 Memory and forecast just returns engage ;
 That pointed back to youth, this on to age ;
 While pleasure, gratitude and hope combin'd, 145
 Still spread the interest and preserve the kind.

IV. Nor think, in nature's state they blindly trod ;
 The state of nature was the reign of God ;
 Self-love and social at her birth began,
 Union the bond of all things, and of man. 150
 Pride then was not ; nor arts, that pride to aid ;
 Man walked with beast, joint tenant of the shade ;
 The same his table, and the same his bed ;
 No murder cloth'd him, and no murder fed.
 In the same temple, the resounding wood, 155
 All vocal beings hymn'd their equal God :
 The shrine with gore unstain'd, with gold undrest,
 Unbrib'd, unbloody, stood the blameless priest :
 Heaven's attribute was universal care,
 And man's prerogative to rule, but spare. 160
 Ah ! how unlike the man of times to come !
 Of half that live the butcher and the tomb ;—
 Who, foe to nature, hears the general groan,
 Murders their species, and betrays his own.
 But just disease to luxury succeeds, 165
 And every death its own avenger breeds :
 The fury-passions from that blood began,
 And turned on man, a fiercer savage, man.

See him from nature rising slow to art :
 To copy instinct then was reason's part. 170
 Thus then to man the voice of nature spake—
 " Go, from the creatures thy instructions take :
 Learn from the birds what food the thickets yield ;
 Learn from the beast the physic of the field ;
 Thy arts of building from the bee receive ; 175
 Learn of the mole to plough, the worm to weave ;
 Learn of the little nautilus to sail,
 Spread the thin oar, and catch the driving gale.
 Here too all forms of social union find,
 And hence let reason, late, instruct mankind : 180

Whom they rever'd as God, to mourn as man :
Then, looking up, from sire, to sire explor'd 225
One great First Father, and that first ador'd.
On plain tradition that this all begun,
Convey'd unbroken faith from sire to son.
The worker from the work distinct was known,
And simple reason never sought but one : 230
Ere wit oblique had broke that steady light,
Man, like his Maker, saw that all was right :
To virtue, in the paths of pleasure trod,
And own'd a father, when he own'd a God.
Love, all the faith, and all the allegiance then, 235
For nature knew no right divine in men :
Nor ill could fear in God, and understood
A sovereign being, but a sovereign good.
True faith, true policy, united ran,
That was but love of God, and this of man. 240
Who first taught soul's enslav'd, and realms undone,
The enormous faith of many made for one ;
That proud exception to all nature's laws,
T' invert the world, and counterwork its cause.
Force first made conquest, and that conquest law ; 245
'Till superstition taught the tyrant awe.
Then shar'd the tyranny, then lent it aid,
And Gods of conquerors, slaves of subjects made :
She, 'midst the lightning's blaze, and thunder's sound,
When rock'd the mountains, and when groan'd the ground,
She taught the weak to bend, the proud to pray
To Power unseen, and mightier far than they :
She, from the rending earth, and bursting skies,
Saw gods descend, and fiends infernal rise :
Here fix'd the dreadful, there the blest abodes ; 255
Fear made her devils, and weak hope her gods ;
Gods partial, changeful, passionate, unjust,
Whose attributes were rage, revenge, or lust :
Such as the souls of cowards might conceive,
And, form'd like tyrants, tyrants would believe. 260
Zeal then, not charity, became the guide ;
And hell was built on spite, and heaven on pride.
Then sacred seemed the ethereal vault no more :
Altars grew marble then, and reek'd with gore ;
Then first the Flamen tasted living food, 265
Next his grim idol, smear'd with human blood ;



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ESSAY ON MAN.

25

With heaven's own thunders shook the world below,
And played the God an engine on his foe.
So drives self-love, through just and through unjust.
To one man's power, ambition, lucre, lust ; 270
The same self-love, in all, becomes the cause
Of what restrains him, government and laws.
For what one likes, if others like as well,
What serves one will, when many wills rebel ?
How shall he keep, what, sleeping or awake, 275
A weaker may surprise, a stronger take ?
His safety must his liberty restrain :
All join to guard what each desires to gain.
Forced into virtue thus, by self-defence,
E'en kings learn'd justice and benevolence : 280
Self-love forsook the path it first pursu'd,
And found the private in the public good.
'Twas then the studious head or generous mind,
Follower of God, or friend of human kind,
Poet or patriot, rose but to restore 285
The faith that mortal Nature gave before ;
Resumed her ancient light, not kindled new ;
If not God's image, yet his shadow drew :
Taught power's due use to people and to kings,
Taught not to slack, nor strain its tender strings, 290
The less or greater set so justly true.
That touching one must strike the other too ;
'Till jarring interests of themselves create
Th' according music of a well mix'd state. 295
Such is the world's great harmony, that springs
From order, union, full consent of things :
Where small and great, where weak and mighty, made
To serve, not suffer, strengthen, not invade ;
More powerful each as needful to the rest, 300
And, in proportion as it blesses, blest ;
Draw to one point, and to one centre bring
Beast, man, or angel, servant, lord, or king.
For forms of government let fools contest ;
Whate'er is best administer'd is best : 305
For modes of faith, let graceless zealots fight ;
His can't be wrong whose life is in the right ;
In faith and hope the world will disagree,
But all mankind's concern is charity ;
All must be false that thwart this one great end :

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And all of God, that bless mankind, or mend. 310
 Man, like the generous vine, supported lives;
 The strength he gains is from the embrace he gives.
 On their own axis as the planets run,
 To make at once their circle round the sun;
 So two consistent motions act the soul; 315
 And one regards itself, and one the whole.
 Thus God and nature link'd the general frame,
 And bade self-love and social be the same. 318

EPISTLE IV.

Of the Nature and State of Man, with respect to Happiness.

False notions of happiness, philosophical and popular, answered, from verse 19 to 27. It is the end of all men, and attainable by all, 30. God intends happiness to be equal; and to be so, it must be social, since all particular happiness depends on general, and since he governs by general, not particular laws, 37. As it is necessary for order, and the peace and welfare of society, that external goods should be unequal, happiness is not made to consist in these, 51. But notwithstanding that inequality, the balance of happiness amongst mankind is kept even by Providence, by the two passions of hope and fear, 70. What the happiness of individuals is, as far as it is consistent with the constitution of this world; and that the good man has here the advantage, 77. The error of imputing to virtue what are only the calamities of nature, or of fortune, 94. The folly of expecting that God should alter his general laws in favor of particulars, 121. That we are not judges who are good; but that whoever they are, they must be happiest, 133, &c. That external goods are not the proper rewards, but often inconsistent with, or destructive of virtue, 167. That even these can make no man happy, without virtue—instanced in riches, 185.—Honors, 193. Nobility, 205. Greatness, 217. Fame, 237. Superior talents, 259, &c. With pictures of human infelicity in men possessed of them all, 269, &c. That virtue alone constitutes happiness, whose object is universal, and whose prospect is eternal, 309. That the perfection of virtue and happiness consists in a conformity to the *order of providence* here, and a resignation to it here and hereafter, 316, &c.

On Happiness! our being's end and aim!
 Good, pleasure, ease, content! whate'er thy name!
 That something still which prompts the eternal sigh,
 For which we bear to live, or dare to die:
 Which still so near us, yet beyond us lies,

Order is heaven's first law ; and this confess,
Some are, and must be, greater than the rest, 50
More rich, more wise ; but who infers from hence
That such are happier, shocks all common sense.
Heaven to mankind impartial we confess,
If all are equal in their happiness ;
But mutual wants this happiness increase ; 55
All nature's difference keeps all nature's peace.
Condition, circumstance, is not the thing ;
Bliss is the same in subject or in king,
In who obtain defence, or who defend,
In him who is, or him who finds a friend : 60
Heaven breathes through every member of the whole
One common blessing, as one common soul.
But fortune's gifts, if each alike possess,
And each were equal, must not all contest ?
If then to all men happiness was meant, 65
God in externals could not place content.
Fortune her gifts may variously dispose,
And these be happy call'd, unhappy those ;
But Heaven's just balance equal will appear,
While those are placed in hope, and these in fear : 70
Not present good or ill, the joy or curse,
But future views of better or of worse.
O, sons of earth ! attempt ye still to rise,
By mountains piled on mountains, to the skies ?
Heaven still with laughter the vain toil surveys, 75
And buries madmen in the heaps they raise.
III. Know, all the good that individuals find,
Or God and nature meant to mere mankind,
Reason's whole pleasure, all the joys of sense,
Lie in three words, health, peace, and competence. 80
But health consists with temperance alone ;
And peace, O virtue ! peace is all thy own.
The good or bad the gifts of fortune gain ;
But these less taste them, as they worse obtain.
Say, in pursuit of profit or delight, 85
Who risk the most, that take wrong means, or right ?
Of vice or virtue, whether bless'd or cursed,
Which meets contempt, or which compassion first ?
Count all the advantage prosperous vice attains,
'Tis but what virtue flies from and disdains : 90
And grant the bad what happiness they would,



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One they must want, which is, to pass for good.

Oh, blind to truth, and God's whole scheme below,

Who fancy bliss to vice, to virtue woe!

Who sees and follows that great scheme the best,

Best knows the blessing, and will most be bless'd.

But fools the good alone unhappy call,

For ills or accidents that chance to all.

See Falkland dies, the virtuous and the just:

See godlike Turenne prostrate on the dust!

See Sidney bleeds amid the martial strife!

Was this their virtue, or contempt of life?

Say, was it virtue, more though Heaven ne'er gave,

Lamented Digby! sunk thee to the grave!

Tell me, if virtue made the son expire,

Why, full of days and honor, lives the sire?

Why drew Marseilles' good bishop purer breath,

When nature sicken'd, and each gale was death?

Or why so long (in life if long can be)

Lent Heaven a parent to the poor and me?

What makes all physical or moral ill?

There deviates nature, and here wanders will.

God sends not ill, if rightly understood,

Or partial ill is universal good,

Or change admits, or nature lets it fall,

Short, and but rare, till man improved it all.

We just as wisely might of Heaven complain,

That righteous Abel was destroy'd by Cain,

As that the virtuous son is ill at ease

When his lewd father gave the dire disease.

Think we, like some weak prince, the Eternal Cause

Prone for his favorites to reverse his laws!

IV. Shall burning *Ætna*, if a sage requires,

Forget to thunder, and recall her fires!

On air or sea new motions be impress'd,

Oh blameless *Bethel*! to relieve thy breast?

When the loose mountain trembles from on high,

Shall gravitation cease if you go by?

Or some old temple, nodding to its fall,

For Chartres' head reserve the hanging wall?

V. But still this world (so fitted for the knave)

Contents us not. A better shall we have?

A kingdom of the just then let it be:

But first consider how those just agree.

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The good must merit God's peculiar care ! 135
 But who, but God, can tell us who they are ?
 One thinks on Calvin Heaven's own spirit fell ;
 Another deems him instrument of hell :
 If Calvin feel Heaven's blessing, or its rod,
 This cries, there is, and that, there is no God. 140
 What shocks one part will edify the rest,
 Nor with one system can they all be bless'd.
 The very best will variously incline,
 And what rewards your virtue, punish mine.
 WHATEVER IS, IS RIGHT.—This world, 'tis true, 145
 Was made for Cæsar—but for Titus too ;
 And which more bless'd ? who chain'd his country, say,
 Or he whose virtue sigh'd to lose a day ?

VI. 'But sometimes virtue starves while vice is fed.'
 What then ? Is the reward of virtue bread ? 150
 That, vice may merit, 'tis the price of toil ;
 The knave deserves it, when he tills the soil ;
 The knave deserves it when he tempts the main,
 Where folly fights for kings, or dives for gain.
 The good man may be weak, be indolent ; 155
 Nor is his claim to plenty, but content.
 But grant him riches, your demand is o'er ?
 'No—shall the good want health, the good want power !'
 Add health and power and every earthly thing—
 'Why bounded power ? why private ? why no king ? 160
 Nay, why external for internal given ?
 Why is not man a god, an earth a heaven ?'
 Who ask and reason thus, will scarce conceive
 God gives enough, while he has more to give ;
 Immense the power, immense were the demand ; 165
 Say, at what part of nature will they stand ?
 What nothing earthly gives or can destroy,
 The soul's calm sun-shine, and the heart-felt joy,
 Is virtue's prize : a better would you fix ?
 Then give humility a coach and six, 170
 Justice a conqueror's sword, or truth a gown,
 Or public spirit its great cure—a crown.
 Weak, foolish man ! will Heaven reward us there,
 With the same trash mad mortals wish for here ?
 The boy and man an individual makes, 175
 Yet sigh'st thou now for apples and for cakes ?
 Go, like the Indian, in another life,



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ESSAY ON MAN.

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Expect thy dog, thy bottle, and thy wife,
As well as dream such trifles are assign'd,
As toys and empires, for a god-like mind.
Rewards, that either would to virtue bring
No joy, or be destructive of the thing;
How oft by these at sixty are undone
The virtues of a saint at twenty-one!
To whom can riches give repute or trust,
Content or pleasure, but the good and just?
Judges and senates have been bought for gold;
Esteem and love were never to be sold.
Oh fool! to think God hates the worthy mind,
The lover and the love of human kind,
Whose life is healthful, and whose conscience clear,
Because he wants a thousand pounds a year.

180

Honor and shame from no condition rise;
Act well your part, there all the honor lies.
Fortune in men has some small difference made,
One flaunts in rags, one flutters in brocade;
The cobbler apron'd, and the parson gown'd,
The friar hooded, and the monarch crown'd.

185

'What differ more,' you cry, 'than crown and cowl?'
I'll tell you, friend! a wise man and a fool.
You'll find, if once the monarch acts the monk,
Or, cobbler-like, the parson will be drunk;
Worth makes the man, and want of it the fellow;
The rest is all but leather or prunello.

190

Stuck o'er with titles and hung round with strings,
That thou may'st be by kings, or whores of kings.
Boast the pure blood of an illustrious race,
In quiet flow from Lucrece to Lucrece:

205

But by your fathers' worth, if yours you rate,
Count me those only who were good and great.
Go! if your ancient, but ignoble blood
Has crept through scoundrels ever since the flood,

210

Go! and pretend your family is young;
Nor own your fathers have been fools so long.
What can ennoble sots, or slaves, or cowards?
Alas! not all the blood of all the Howards.

215

Look next on greatness: say where greatness lies:
Where, but among the heroes and the wise?
Heroes are much the same, the point's agreed,
From Macedon's madman to the Swede;

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The whole strange purpose of their lives, to find,
Or make, an enemy of all mankind !
Not one looks backward, onward still he goes,
Yet ne'er looks forward further than his nose.
No less alike the politic and wise ; 225
All sly slow things with circumspective eyes ;
Men in their loose unguarded hours they take,
Not that themselves are wise, but others weak.
But grant that those can conquer, these can cheat ;
'Tis phrase absurd to call a villain great : 230
Who wickedly is wise, or madly brave,
Is but the more a fool, the more a knave.
Who noble ends by noble means obtains,
Or failing, smiles in exile or in chains,
Like good Aurelius let him reign, or bleed 235
Like Socrates, that man is great indeed.

What's fame ? a fancied life in others' breath,
A thing beyond us, e'en before our death.
Just what you hear you have ; and what's unknown,
The same (my lord) if Tully's, or your own. 240
All that we feel of it begins and ends
In the small circle of our foes or friends ;
To all beside as much an empty shade
An Eugene living, as a Cæsar dead ;
Alike or when or where they shone or shine, 245
Or on the Rubicon, or on the Rhine.
A wit's a feather, and a chief a rod ;
An honest man 's the noblest work of God.
Fame but from death a villain's name can save,
As justice tears his body from the grave ; 250
When what to oblivion better were resign'd,
Is hung on high, to poison half mankind.
All fame is foreign but of true desert,
Plays round the head, but comes not to the heart :
One self-approving hour whole years outweighs 255
Of stupid starers, and of loud huzzas ;
And more true joy Marcellus exiled feels,
Than Cæsar with a senate at his heels.

In parts superior what advantage lies ?
Tell (for you can) what is it to be wise ? 260
'Tis but to know how little can be known,
To see all others' faults, and feel our own ;
Condemned in business or in arts to drudge,



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9177

ESSAY ON MAN

33

Without a second, or without a judge :
Truth would you teach, or save a sinking land ?
All fear, none aid you, and few understand.
Painful preeminence ! yourself to view
Above life's weakness, and its comforts too.
Bring then these blessings to a strict account :
Make fair deductions ; see to what they mount :
How much of other each is sure to cost ;
How each for other oft is wholly lost :
How inconsistent greater goods with these :
How sometimes life is risk'd, and always ease :
Think, and if still the things thy envy call,
Say, would'st thou be the man to whom they fall ?
To sigh for ribbands if thou art so silly.
Mark how they grace Lord Umbra, or Sir Billy.
Is yellow dirt the passion of thy life ?
Look but on Gripus, or on Gripus' wife,
If parts allure thee, think how Bacon shined,
The wisest, brightest, meanest of mankind :
Or ravish'd with the whistling of a name,
See Cromwell damn'd to everlasting fame !
If all, united, thy ambition call,
From ancient story, learn to scorn them all.
There, in the rich, the honor'd, famed, and great,
See the false scale of happiness complete !
In hearts of kings, or arms of queens who lay,
How happy ! those to ruin, these betray.
Mark by what wretched steps their glory grows,
From dirt and sea-weed as proud Venice rose ;
In each how guilt and greatness equal ran,
And all that raised the hero sunk the man :
Now Europe's laurels on their brows behold,
But stain'd with blood, or ill exchang'd for gold :
Then see them broke with toils, or sunk in ease,
Or infamous for plunder'd provinces.
O wealth ill-fated ! which no act of fame
E'er taught to shine, or sanctified from shame !
What greater bliss attends their close of life ?
Some greedy minion, or imperious wife,
The trophied arches, storied halls invade,
And haunt their slumbers in the pompous shade.
Alas ! not dazzled with their noon-tide ray,
Compute the morn and evening to the day ;

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BEL OW

The whole amount of that enormous fame,
A tale that blends their glory with their shame !
Know then this truth, (enough for man to know,) 310
'Virtue alone is happiness below.'
The only point where human bliss stands still,
And tastes the good without the fall to ill ;
Where only merit constant pay receives,
Is bless'd in what it takes, and what it gives ; 315
The joy unequall'd, if its end it gain,
And if it lose, attended with no pain :
Without satiety, though e'er so bless'd,
And but more relish'd as the more distress'd :
/ The broadest mirth unfeeling folly wears, 320
Less pleasing far than virtue's very tears : /
Good, from each object, from each place acquired,
For ever exercised, yet never tired ;
Never elated, while one man's oppress'd ;
Never dejected, while another's bless'd :
And where no wants, no wishes can remain, 325
Since but to wish more virtue, is to gain.
See the sole bliss Heaven could on all bestow !
Which who but feels can taste, but thinks can know ;
Yet poor with fortune and with learning blind,
The bad must miss, the good untaught will find ; 330
Slave to no sect, who takes no private road,
But looks through nature up to nature's God ;
Pursues that chain which links th' immense design,
Joins Heaven and earth, and mortal and divine ; 335
Sees that no being any bliss can know,
But touches some above, and some below :
Learns from the union of the rising whole,
The first, last purpose of the human soul ;
And knows where faith, law, morals, all began, 340
All end in love of God and love of man.
For him alone hope leads from goal to goal,
And opens still, and opens on his soul ;
Till lengthen'd on to faith, and unconfined,
It pours the bliss that fills up all the mind.
He sees why nature plants in man alone, 345
Hope of known bliss, and faith in bliss unknown :
(Nature, whose dictates to no other kind
Are given in vain, but what they seek they find :)
Wise is her present ; she connects in this



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ESSAY ON MAN.

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His greatest virtue with his greatest bliss ;
At once his own bright prospect to be bless'd ;
And strongest motive to assist the rest.
Self-love thus push'd to social, to divine.
Gives thee to make thy neighbor's blessing thine.

350

Is this too little for the boundless heart ?
Extend it, let thy enemies have part ;
Grasp the whole world of reason, life, and sense,
In one close system of benevolence ;
Happier as kinder, in what'er degree.

355

And height of bliss but height of charity.
God loves from whole to parts : but human soul
Must rise from individual to the whole.

360

Self-love but serves the virtuous mind to wake,
As the small pebble stirs the peaceful lake ;
The centre mov'd, a circle straight succeeds,

365

Another still, and still another spreads ;
Friend, parent, neighbor, first it will embrace ;
His country next, and next all human race ;
Wide and more wide, the o'erflowings of the mind
Take every creature in, of every kind ;

370

Earth smiles around, with boundless bounty bless'd,
And Heaven beholds its image in its breast.

Come then, my friend ! my genius ! come along ;
O master of the poet, and the song !

375

And while the muse now stoops, or now ascends,
To man's low passions, or their glorious ends,
Teach me, like thee, in various nature wise,
To fall with dignity, with temper rise ;

380

Form'd by thy converse, happily to steer,
From grave to gay, from lively to severe ;
Correct with spirit, eloquent with ease,
Intent to reason, or polite to please.

385

O ! while along the stream of time thy name
Expanded flies, and gathers all its fame,
Say, shall my little bark attendant sail,
Pursue the triumph and partake the gale ?

390

When statesmen, heroes, kings, in dust repose,
Whose sons shall blush their fathers were thy foes,
Shall then this verse to future age pretend
Thou wert my guide, philosopher and friend ?
That, urg'd by thee, I turn'd the tuneful art
From sounds to things, from fancy to the heart ;

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BELLOW

For wit's false mirror held up nature's light,
Show'd erring pride, WHATEVER IS, IS RIGHT ;
That reason, passion, answer one great aim ;
That true self-love and social are the same ;
That virtue only makes our bliss below ;
And all our knowledge is, OURSELVES TO KNOW.

ODE.

The dying Christian to his Soul.

BY ALEXANDER POPE.

VITAL spark of heavenly flame !
Quit, oh quit this mortal frame :
Trembling, hoping, lingering, flying—
Oh, the pain, the bliss of dying !
Cease, fond Nature, cease thy strife,
And let me languish into life.

Hark ! they whisper : angels say,
Sister spirit, come away.
What is this absorbs me quite,
Steals my senses, shuts my sight,
Drowns my spirits, draws my breath ?
Tell me, my soul, can this be death ?

The world recedes ; it disappears !
Heaven opens on my eyes ! my ears
With sounds seraphic ring :
Lend, lend your wings ! I mount ! I fly ?
Oh grave ! where is thy victory ?
Oh death ! where is thy sting ?

Gaylord
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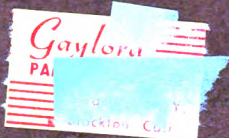
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